

The **Malatestiana Library** (Italian: *Biblioteca Malatestiana*), also known as the **Malatesta Novello Library**, is a public library in the city of Cesena in northern Italy. Purpose-built from 1447 to 1452 and opened in 1454, and named after the local aristocrat Malatesta Novello, it is significant for being the first civic library in Europe, i.e. belonging to the commune rather than the church or a noble family, and open to the general public. The library was inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2005.

External links

Inside, the library features geometric design, typical of the early Italian Renaissance style. The aula has the layout of a basilica (reflecting the importance of the library as a "temple of culture"), with three naves divided by ten rows of white columns made from local stone; there are eleven bays in each aisle, which are pole

Address	Piazza Maurizio Bufalini 1
Town or city	Cesena
Country	Italy
Coordinates	44°08′20″N 12°14′38″E
Completed	1452
Opened	15 August 1454

vaulted. The central nave is barrel vaulted and ends with a rose under which is the gravestone of Malatesta Novello.

The fittings are composed of 58 desks, with coat of arms at the sides. The light comes in through the 44 Venetian style windows, which were purpose designed to provide ideal lighting for reading.

Holdings

The library has over 400,000 books, including over 340 codices covering various fields such as religion, Greek and Latin classics, sciences and medicine, and about 3,200 manuscripts from the 16th century.^[2] The oldest manuscript in the library is a copy of Isidore's Etymologiae.^[4]

References

1. "MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER: Nomination Form: The Malatesta Novello Library" (http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/mow/nomination_forms/italy_malatesta_novello_library.pdf) (PDF). UNESCO. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
2. "Istituzione Biblioteca Malatestiana" (http://www.cerl.org/resources/links_to_other_resources/istituzione_biblioteca_malatestiana). Consortium of European Research Libraries. 2012. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
3. "The Malatesta Novello Library" (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/register/full-list-of-registered-heritage/registered-heritage-page-8/the-malatesta-novello-library/>). United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. 2005. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
4. "LA BIBLIOTECA MALATESTIANA: EUROPE'S FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160409075451/http://www.travelthruhistory.com/html/art54.html>). Travel Thru History. Archived from the original (<http://www.travelthruhistory.com/html/art54.html>) on 9 April 2016. Retrieved 22 March 2014.



Entrance to the aula (Aula del Nuti).



A medieval manuscript

External links

- Official website (<http://www.malatestiana.it>) (in Italian)

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